

DECLINES TO RETRACT

Rainey Reads to the House
Message From C. P. Taft.

PUTS ONUS ON OBALDIA

Says Panama's President Made the
Charge Objected To.

CARES TO ADD NOTHING TO IT

Letter Read From Cromwell Denying
Interest in Any Concession
on the Isthmus.

As soon as he could get the floor today Representative Rainey (Ill.) read to the House the cablegram which he received from Charles P. Taft yesterday, in which the brother of the next President denied that he has ever had any business association with William Nelson Cromwell, or any interest at any time in the Isthmus of Panama. In the message he asked Mr. Rainey to retract his statements regarding Mr. Taft, which he made in his speech Tuesday.

Following is the text of Mr. Taft's cablegram to Mr. Rainey:

"Havana, January 27, 1909.

"Representative Rainey, House of Representatives, Washington.

"I assume you have been misled into writing the slurs and absolute falsehoods concerning me you are reported to have spoken yesterday. I have never had any business association of any kind or description, past, present or prospective, with William Nelson Cromwell, or any interest of any kind or with anybody, present, past or prospective, on the Isthmus of Panama, and I confidently rely on your loyalty to the truth to retract what you said about me in the same high place where you made yourself responsible for these misstatements.

"CHARLES P. TAFT."

Doesn't Contradict Taft.

After the reading of the cablegram Mr. Rainey said:

"I have not the slightest desire to controvert in any way the statement of Mr. Charles P. Taft, which has just been read. On the contrary, I congratulate him upon his absolute and complete repudiation of William Nelson Cromwell and his methods. It, however, does not become necessary for me to retract anything I said in my speech. I do not desire to add anything to what I said nor to change it in any way. In order that what I said in my speech should be correct, I may appear here in the Congressional Record, in connection with his telegram, to desire now to read from my speech of January 24, and I read on the letter of the first column on page 1470 of the Congressional Record for this session."

Mr. Rainey then read from the Record the extract referred to. It asserted that President Obaldia of Panama told some members of the general assembly that C. P. Taft was one of the men behind a certain scheme. He continued:

"The country will be glad to know that Mr. Taft's name is being used there without his consent. I desire to state in this connection that Mr. Taft could render a great service, and his denial will be of great value. I have shown in my speech of January 24, and I read on the letter of the first column on page 1470 of the Congressional Record for this session."

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WATER GAS DEFENDED

Expert Considers Process
Great Forward Stride.

LOVE BEFORE COMMITTEE

Does Not Regard It as More Dangerous
Than Coal Product.

CITES SEVERAL ADVANTAGES

More Light and Heat—Takes Issue
With Wiley Regarding Use of
Incandescent Mantles.

T. E. Barker, chairman of the board of gas and electric light commissioners of Massachusetts, and Edward G. Love, a gas expert of the city of New York, were the principal witnesses before the House committee today at its third hearing on the District Commissioners' bill to limit to 10 per cent the amount of carbon monoxide in the illuminating supply of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Love was called by the Washington Gas Light Company. Mr. Barker appeared upon request of Chairman Smith of the committee.

Mr. Love testified that for over thirty years he had been gas examiner of New York City. The first water-gas plant in this country had been established in 1864 at Phoenixville, Pa., he said, and the manufacture of water gas was then an entirely new departure in municipal illumination.

Two years later the Municipal Gas Company of New York had taken up the new process. The success with which the company met was pronounced from the start. In a couple of years the concern was making 550,000,000 cubic feet of the product.

Great Forward Stride.

"The introduction of this process," said Mr. Love, "can be said to be the greatest forward stride in the manufacture of illuminating gas in the last century."

Mr. Love explained the difference between water gas and coal gas, going into technical details. He said water gas had many advantages over coal gas.

It burned, he said, with a bright, white, clean flame, giving as much as twenty-five to thirty candlepower. Before that, with exclusively coal gas, sixteen-candlepower was about the best that could be had.

"The explosive qualities of coal and water gas were about the same," he said, "so there was nothing to choose between the two in this regard. But the heating power of coal and water differed considerably."

"Coal gas of sixteen-candlepower would give about 650 heat units per cubic foot. Carbureted water gas would give about 700 to 750 heat units. When, however, the proposition was determined by the reverse was the case. As gas was sold by the cubic foot, he considered that the standard in the determination of heat units."

Mr. Love quoted from authorities on the subject to show that water gas was not considered more dangerous to life than coal gas when the same precautions were taken with both. He remarked, in this connection, that water gas was odorless, and therefore dangerous, but that carbureted water gas smelled just as unpleasantly as coal gas, and was equally dangerous.

He considered the use of coal and water gas in cooking ranges affected by just about the same amount of danger.

Opinions of Ira Remsen.

In 1888, Dr. Love said, Prof. Ira Remsen, now president of Johns Hopkins University, had been retained by the board of health of Brooklyn in an investigation of the relative dangers in the use of coal and water gas. Prof. Remsen had reported that no conclusions could be drawn along the line, as statistics were not sufficiently comprehensive.

"The danger with respect to the escape of either gas," he said, "was equally bad or he could not see that the use of water gas should be frowned upon disproportionately to the use of coal gas."

Dr. Remsen reported, however, that probably the fatal effects of water gas could be met in a shorter period than those of coal gas. He did not, however, consider the use of water gas as dangerous under proper conditions.

Dr. Love said other authorities whose opinions were along the same line as those of Prof. Remsen.

Dr. Love took issue with Dr. Wiley's argument that the candlepower of a gas is not a matter of safety, by view of the general use of incandescent mantles. He insisted that in the city of New York not a single gas consumer used incandescent mantles.

"I have only one in my house, I am ashamed to say," added Dr. Love, with a smile.

"This," he said, "is still the age of the flat-burner and we must lay our plan accordingly."

In reply to questions by Representative Sims of Tennessee, Dr. Love admitted that straight coal gas could be enriched by the use of naphtha, or twenty-five or thirty per cent, or more, but insisted that it would be smoky under such conditions.

With the carbon monoxide limiting law it would be impossible for the Washington Gas Light Company to use any water gas at all.

He called the attention at this point to the fact that of fifty gas manufacturers who some years ago opposed the repeal of the carbon monoxide limiting law, thirty-one were now using a water gas containing a high percentage of that product.

Committee Is Drawn In.

Dr. Love occasioned considerable amusement by announcing that he had prepared a list of the various cities and towns which were represented by members of the House District committee.

He had found that out of the nineteen members three came from cities where a straight water gas was used, nine from cities where a mixture of coal gas and



THE NEW GASTRONOMY.

FLAGS AT HALF MAST

Arrival of the Venezia With
Consul Cheney's Remains.

GREAT THROG WAITING

Pier Draped in Black and the National Colors.

SOME HITCH IN ARRANGEMENT

No Representative of the Government or Relatives of the Deceased
on Hand to Meet the Vessel.

FEW SAW EXECUTION.

DAVE EDWARDS HANGED IN CHATTAHOOGA FOR MURDER OF J. W. DAVIS.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., January 29.—At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon Dave Edwards was hanged in the county jail here for the murder of J. W. Davis. His neck was broken by the fall. A large crowd surged about the prison, but few were permitted to witness the execution.

On the scaffold Edwards spoke of the man he had murdered, saying: "If Davis is in that part of eternity where the sun and moon are hanging in the sky, I will be with him in a few minutes. Davis went out of this life much as I am going. He had the time to prepare for the future world."

DISLOCATED NECK LAUGHING.

Serious Sequel to Joke at Pittsburg, but Surgeon Relieved Woman.

PITTSBURG, January 29.—Dislocating her neck because of immoderate laughter at a joke told by a guest, Mrs. William Glessey suffered intense agony last night. The arrival of a surgeon who relieved her sufferings and replaced the dislocated member.

Mr. and Mrs. Glessey were entertaining guests. One of them told a joke at which Mrs. Glessey began to laugh. She became hysterical and was unable to stop, when suddenly she felt a sharp pain in her neck and soon her face turned black.

A surgeon hastily summoned soon placed the neck back into place.

MT. RAINIER TO INCORPORATE.

Plans of the New Municipality in Maryland.

MOUNT RAINIER, Md., January 29.—The committee of six, appointed by Chairman Nalley at a public meeting early this morning to incorporate Mount Rainier and Brentwood, is ready to report. A public meeting will be held next week to receive the report. It is learned that the committee will explain that there is property of an assessed valuation of about \$800,000 in the proposed community to be included in the municipality and that the average residential assessment is about \$120.

It is said the committee will recommend securing a charter for a municipality with a tax in excess of 30 cents on each \$100 of the assessed valuation; that nothing be attempted in the way of sewage or water supply; that the present highway and that the mayor or some other municipal officer be given magisterial powers and authority to punish for all infractions of municipal regulations.

Big Land Sale in Texas.

BIG SPRINGS, Tex., January 29.—Probably the biggest land sale ever recorded in this section of the state was concluded when R. L. Slaughter, representing C. C. Slaughter, land owner and cattleman, whose home is in Dallas, sold the "Long S" ranch, comprising 200,000 acres, to Iowa capitalists. It is said the consideration was approximately \$5,000,000.

PERSIAN REBELS VICTORIOUS.

Chase Three Generals From the Field and Route Their Troops.

ST. PETERSBURG, January 29.—A dispatch from Teheran to the Russ says that rising recently took place in the province of Osalen and Karganerud and that the inhabitants expelled the governors. The shah ordered Gen. Liakhoff, the Russian commander of the Persian troops in Teheran, to send a repressive expedition, and one started for the disturbed districts in command of three generals and well provided with artillery.

At St. Petersburg, the Russian correspondent says, has just arrived at Teheran with the news that the expedition has been completely routed and that the three generals abandoned their men and took to flight.

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JAIL REFORM REPORT

Commissioners Submit Plans
to Congress

FOR TWO NEW BUILDINGS

One to Be Re